

From: [Carter, John T. \(BHSO\)](#)
Subject: Brookhaven Executive Round Table next Wednesday
Date: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 4:59:49 PM

Good afternoon, everyone – Here's your reminder that **the next BER meeting is next Wednesday, September 26, from 10 a.m. to noon at BNL**. I will send you the formal, final agenda this Friday. **Definitely on the agenda** is a detailed presentation by BNL hydrogeologist Doug Paquette about the Lab's search for and characterization of PFAS onsite. What's PFAS? I wrote about this last month (see below) and next Wednesday will be your chance to learn much more and ask questions.

Looking forward to seeing all of you then – John

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From: Carter, John T (BHSO)
Sent: Monday, August 20, 2018 4:38 PM
Subject: Update for the Brookhaven Executive Round Table

Good afternoon, everyone –

Since we're between Brookhaven Executive Round Table (BER) meetings, I want to update you on groundwater sampling for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, at BNL.

As you probably know, PFAS are a class of widely used chemicals that have been identified as emerging contaminants of concern in many communities across the United States. Used in products such as nonstick pans, fast food containers, water-repellent clothing and firefighting foams, PFAS have drawn scrutiny from all levels of government because of their detection in water supplies and their potential health effects, including increased risk of some cancers and developmental problems. PFAS have been identified in groundwater in several communities on Long Island at levels well above the current U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) health advisory level of 70 nanograms per liter (ng/L). This contamination is primarily a result of historical use of firefighting foams in those areas. There is no state or federal drinking water standard or soil cleanup standard for PFAS, although New York and other states are considering implementing drinking water standards lower than the current health advisory level. Due to the characteristics of these chemicals, PFAS tend to stay in soils and groundwater for many years.

Several months ago, in coordination with the EPA, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS), the Lab started to investigate the historical use of firefighting foams on site and to sample on-site groundwater for these chemicals. Lab staff searched historical documents and interviewed current and retired Brookhaven staff as part of that investigation. As a result, the Lab identified several areas on site where firefighting foam that may have contained these chemicals had been used from 1966 through 2008.

The Lab recently completed an initial round of groundwater sampling in several of these areas and found PFOA and PFOS at levels significantly above the 70 ng/L health advisory level in several locations. The highest concentrations were detected near the Lab's Firehouse. Lower levels of the chemicals were also detected in several areas onsite where foam was released in the 1970s. Levels of PFOS/PFOA detected in groundwater in these areas ranged from 6 ng/L to more than 3,000 ng/L. Regarding BNL drinking water: Recall that at our April 2018 meeting we reported that in 2017 the

SCDHS sampled the Lab's water supply wells for six specific PFAS as part of a national program that tests for emerging contaminants of concern. PFAS were detected in three of the Lab's supply wells, with combined PFOA/PFOS concentrations up to 24 ng/L (substantially below the EPA health advisory level).

PFOA/PFOS levels in drinking water supplied by the Lab's Water Treatment Plant, which processes water from one of the affected wells, were less than 3 ng/L, or less than 1/20th of the EPA health advisory level. Although the PFOA/PFOS concentrations are well below the current EPA health advisory level, the Lab is planning to install carbon treatment on the other two affected supply wells that pump water directly into the distribution system.

At our next BER meeting, tentatively set for Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at BNL, we expect to have more information to share. In the meantime, you can contact me at this email address or by calling 631-344-5195 if you have questions or comments. John

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